



### Debbitt's Crew – Setzer Creek

“Mr. Debbitt is about 35 years of age. He was in charge of the district during the last four years, having headquarters within six miles of where the men perished; therefore was thoroughly acquainted with all the conditions which might have led to the protection of the men. Owing to the fact that he had general charge of the district, he was away from the men when they perished, but a few hours preceding this, seeing that danger was imminent, he sent Charles Sullivan, who was then serving as Deputy Sheriff at Avery, into where about 70 men were working on Setzer Creek, telling them to come out to Avery immediately as there was danger of being hemmed in by the fire. All of these men came out with the exception of 28 were burned beyond recognition a few hours afterward. These men were all wrapped in blankets and sewed in heavy canvas and buried where they were burned. The bodies of the men were found at the extreme head of Storm Creek; the next drainage west of Setzer Creek in Section 29, township 29 North, Range 5 East.”

*Excerpt from the collection of “When The Mountains Roared”, (page 18) USDA Forest Service*